



United States Department of the Interior

KENAI NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

P.O. Box 2139
Soldotna, Alaska 99669-2139
(907) 262-7021

IN REPLY REFER TO:

07080dfn

NEWS RELEASE

July 6, 2007

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: Kenai National Wildlife Refuge

TELEPHONE: (907) 262-7021

TTY: 260-2803

LILY LAKE PRESCRIBED FIRE PROJECT PLANNED FOR JULY 10, 2007 (REFUGE FIRE MANAGEMENT)

If favorable weather and fuel conditions exist, fire managers at the Kenai National Wildlife Refuge plan to continue implementation of the Lily Lake prescribed fire project on Tuesday (07/10/07) or on any day during the following week (07/11 – 07/16). This wildland-urban interface fuel reduction project, initiated in 2003, is designed to reduce wildland fire hazard fuels (black spruce) near the community of Sterling. It should also improve moose habitat by encouraging hardwood tree and shrub regeneration. A wet summer prevented progress on the project last year. Record fire seasons in Alaska (2004 and 2005) prevented progress on the project in the two previous years.

Lily Lake is a large prescribed fire project, consisting of 184 acres of hydro-axed black spruce, surrounding a 247-acre stand of 60-year-old black spruce forest. The unit is located north of the Sterling Highway and the Enstar natural gas pipeline, and adjacent to the East Fork of the Moose River. A dozer-line and hose lay (with portable water tanks and portable pumps) have been

completed around the perimeter of the burn unit to control fire spread. And the hydro-axed ring (300 – 500 feet wide) within the perimeter is designed to limit fire behavior and risk.

The Lily Lake Prescribed Fire Project is one small part of a larger interagency effort to address the issues of public safety and wildland fire mitigation on the Kenai Peninsula. It is consistent with the National Fire Plan, with U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service fire management policy, and with the findings and recommendations of the Kenai Peninsula Spruce Bark Beetle Task Force. All planned activities for this project are covered in an approved prescribed fire plan, which has been reviewed by the appropriate U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service line officers and other agency fire management officials. The Burn Boss and line officers in the prescribed fire organization will comply with all elements of the prescribed fire plan - before, during and after the ignition of any unit. Prescriptive parameters such as wind speed, wind direction, smoke dispersion and fire behavior will be constantly monitored during firing operations. Any safety, smoke, weather or fire behavior condition that exceeds approved parameters or agency policy will result in a cessation of firing operations.

Fire management resources that are planned for the project include: one or two helicopters (depending upon availability), two dozers, several wildland fire engines, and experienced firefighters from the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, the U.S. Forest Service, the National Park Service, the Bureau of Land Management and the Alaska Division of Forestry.

For more information about the Lily Lake project, contact the Refuge Manager, Robin West, or Fire Management Officer, Doug Newbould, at the Kenai National Wildlife Refuge: (907) 262-7021 or 260-5994.

X X X